Rem rks

Minor amendments to the specification are submitted to correct typographical errors. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to clarify the location of the pin slots in the main body and the channel plates in the fiber receiving cavity.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5-8, 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shahid (U.S. 6,259,856). Claims 1 requires, *inter alia*, a main body having a fiber receiving cavity, pin slots in the main body being precisely located with respect to the fiber receiving cavity and extending inward from side surfaces and a plurality of channel plates in the fiber receiving cavity, wherein the channel plates are formed from the same tool to have a plurality of fiber receiving channels along a major surface.

Shahid '856 does not teach all the elements of claims 1 and 9 and therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested. Specifically, Shahid '856 does not teach pin slots extending inward from side surfaces of a main body of an array ferrule. Shahid '856, in contradistinction, teaches a single ferrule housing 104 having lateral sides 130 with slits 132 for receiving a lip 168 of a multi fiber ferrule 110. The multi fiber ferrule 110 has a plurality of support members 12, 14 that are fit together to form pin grooves 40, 60. These pin grooves 40, 60, in contradistinction, do not extend inward from the lateral sides 130 of the ferrule housing 104. Instead, Shahid '856 teaches that the pin grooves are formed on an inside surface 30 of the support members 12, 14 together with the grooves 38 for receiving fibers. Shahid teaches the pin grooves and the fiber receiving grooves formed in the same major surface, but claim 1 requires that the pin slots be formed in a side surface of the main body and a plurality of fiber receiving channels are formed in the channel plates along a major surface thereof. Additionally, there is no teaching or suggestion by Shahid that its support

members are formed from the same tool to have a plurality of fiber receiving channels. Instead, the support members 12, 14 have parallel arrays of V-grooves. The pin grooves 60 are similarly formed by a pair of V-grooves in opposing support members. The V-grooves are formed in a monocrystalline body, such as a silicone chip which is anisotropically etched using conventional masking and etching techniques to produce the V-grooves. Forming the plurality of channel plates with the same tool as required in claim 1 or broaching a pin slot in each side surface of the main body as required by claim 9 is therefore not taught nor suggested by Shahid.

Since Shahid '856 does not teach nor suggest several of the elements required by claims 1 and 9, the rejection of these claims and those that depend therefrom namely 5-8 and 13 is respectfully overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shahid '856 as applied to claims 1 and 9 and further in view of Shahid (U.S. 5,519,798). Since Shahid '856 does not teach all of the limitations of claims 1 and 9 as discussed above, its combination with Shahid '798 likewise fails to form a prima facie basis for the obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Shahid '798 does not teach nor suggest that which Shahid '856 lacks. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

If the examiner wishes to discuss anything presented in this amendment in order to further prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

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